

**TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

Neither for Nor Against L.D. 172

**LD TITLE: “An Act To Make Permanent the Reciprocal Agreement between
Maine and Other States Regarding a Snowmobile Weekend”**

**SPONSORED BY: Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin
CO-SPONSORED BY: none**

DATE OF HEARING: March 7, 2013

Good afternoon Senator Dutremble, Representative Shaw and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Colonel Joel Wilkinson of the Maine Warden Service representing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking neither for nor against of L.D. 172.

L.D. 172 would authorize the commissioner to allow a nonresident to operate a snowmobile in Maine that is not registered in Maine during one, 3-consecutive-day period, 2 days of which are weekend days, annually if:

- A. The nonresident's snowmobile has a valid registration from another state; and
- B. The nonresident's state of residency allows a snowmobile registered in Maine to be operated in that state for a period of time of at least 3 consecutive days without being registered in that state.

In Summary, this bill will make the reciprocal agreement between Maine and other states regarding a snowmobile weekend permanent. If this bill does not pass the current reciprocity agreement for this 3 day event will be repealed on October 1, 2013.

This law was originally introduced during the 123rd Legislative session and became effective in 2011 with the understanding that it would be repealed on October 1, 2013. The last two years the commissioner has agreed to enter into a cooperative snowmobile weekend with New Hampshire and Vermont to support this legislation. If this bill passes, it is important to the department that the language allows the commissioner to authorize the dates of this activity. This ensures that any multi-state initiative is a cooperative agreement which is mutually beneficial to all states involved and does not restrict Maine to a specific weekend.

I would be glad to answer any questions at this time or during the work session.

